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Letter to the Editor

Reponse to: L. Love., “My experience of the DFCASA exam including recommendations to potential candidates” [J Forensic Legal Med 2011;19:4]

Dear Sir,

I felt very much encouraged by the above article and hope that I may be permitted to respond.

Examinations are stressful and even if rigorous they only *sample* the skills, knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of candidates. Normally a candidate's satisfactory completion of a formal training programme is confirmed by summative examination. In the absence of such a programme it is necessary to assemble evidence in other ways. The Reflective Portfolio and the COVE were devised for this purpose. Assembling these elements and coping with modern examination techniques adds to the challenge of the DFCASA, but the Committee is mindful that the examination must not become just a test of endurance.

Structured candidate feedback has always been included in the DFCASA, and we welcome informal feedback too. This has already resulted in adjustments to the examination which will not affect the standard but should improve experience. Dr Love's article is

a measured reflection by a mature candidate who knows that the primary objective of the DFCASA is that of improving the quality of care. Clearly she is enthusiastic it should succeed in so doing. The Management Committee is most grateful to her for this valuable insight.

Yours faithfully,

Conflict of interest
None.

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